(b) what are the details of agreement reached with the GATT authorities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Discussions held amongst participation countries in Geneva in December 1992 were in the form of exchanges of views and did not get to the stage of formal agreements. India sought changes, improvements and understandings on, *inter-alia*, the following:

(i) In *Textiles* on the backloading of the draft agreement.

(ii) In *TRIPs* on compulsory licensing, importation as working, clean transition period patenting of genetic material and sui generis system of protection for plant varieties;

(iii) In *Agriculture* on food stocking, public distribution and minimum market access; and

(iv) In *Services* on movement of skilled and professional personnel.

World Bank suggestions on export of foodgrains

2374. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank and Government have suggested export of foodgnains from the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Food Ministry is opposed to this suggestion;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is the final decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE I THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUI PLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AN PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH AI DITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MIN ISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS TRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAM ALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Goverr ment is not aware of any such su gestions.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise. It is the poli of the Government to promote e ports of agricultural commodities such a manner that the domestic a ailability of items of mass consum tion is not affected. Hence, all agr cultural commodities may be expor ed without any restrictions, except the extent that such exports a regulated by the negative list of e ports or any other provision of t extent EXIM policy or any other la for the time being in force.

Proposal to bring bidi tobacco und the purview of tobacco board

2375. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND RAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of COMMERC be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any propos under Government's consideration bring bidi Tobacco under the pu view of the Tobacco Board on t same lines as Virgina Tobacco;

(b) if so, whether under the co templated scheme, bidi grade tobac growers will be required to get ther selves registered with the Board a will have to sell their product on to the Board and the bidi produce